

countless students who were fortunate to have gone to both Atwater and Merced High Schools during his long tenure with the Merced Union High School District. His distinguished career in education has also been a source of inspiration and encouragement to all of those who have served with him as faculty and staff.

C.J. currently resides in Merced, where he has enjoyed his retirement years. He was an active member of his duck club for many years, a member of the Elks, and is a 32nd degree Mason. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct honor and privilege to join my community in honoring Mr. C.J. Groves on his 90th birthday.

#### PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY

SPEECH OF

**HON. LAURA RICHARDSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 11, 2010*

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1299, which recognizes the men and women who have given their lives in the line of duty as law enforcement officers. This is an important measure that pays tribute to the selfless men and women who lost their lives as they worked to protect the American people. These brave individuals deserve our national gratitude for their sacrifice.

I thank Chairman CONYERS for his leadership in bringing this bill to the floor. I also thank the sponsor of this legislation, Congressman POE, for his dedication to ensuring that the men and women who protect our families and communities are honored for their bravery, service, and sacrifice.

Careers in law enforcement are inherently dangerous and the men and women who decide to serve as police officers should be commended for their bravery. Today, there are more than 900,000 law enforcement officers in the United States who risk their lives every day to protect our communities. Following the horrific terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, more than seventy law enforcement officers were killed while rescuing victims and restoring a sense of order during this time of national tragedy. September 11, 2001, was the deadliest day for law enforcement officers in the history of our nation.

More than 18,600 law enforcement officers have been killed in the line of duty throughout the history of the United States. These police officers were killed while responding to disturbance calls, making arrests in robberies, investigating suspicious circumstances, making traffic stops, and countless other efforts to protect the American people and ensure the safety of our communities.

In my district in Long Beach, California, 28 police officers have died in the line of duty. In a Peace Officers Memorial Day tribute, Long Beach Mayor Bob Foster eloquently stated, "All of our officers and firefighters chose a profession where they could no longer sit still and proclaim that somebody should do something. Thinking about taking action and actually taking action is what separates the good from the great; the well intentioned from the heroes." I agree with Mayor Foster. Law enforcement officers are true American heroes.

I salute the bravery and dedication of law enforcement officers at the Federal, State, and local levels. I extend my deepest sympathy to the loved ones of police officers who have been killed while working to protect the American people.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 1299.

HONORING DEANNA ESPINA

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 12, 2010*

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Deanna Espina, who has managed the San Lorenzo School District's Indian Education Program for over 35 years.

Deanna is an enrolled member of the Yakama Nation in Washington State. Her tribal name is "Speelyi," which means "Coyote." Deanna and her husband, Joe, have been married for 56 years; their four children all graduated from San Lorenzo High School.

Deanna's career at the San Lorenzo School District began in 1974, the first year of the Title IV Indian Education Program. More than 35,000 students have attended Deanna's presentations at the Native American Museum during her three decades of managing the program.

Deanna's achievements and honors are numerous. She is the founding member of the Bay Area Indian Education Council; was recognized as Administrator of the Year by the National Indian Education Association; received Distinguished Educator of the Year for Indian Education from the State of California; received Indian Education Showcase Award from the U.S. Department of Education for one of the best Indian Education Programs in the country; and received the Honored Elder Award from the California Indian Education Conference. The San Lorenzo School District's Indian Education Program has received commendations from the Alameda County Superintendent of Schools, The California Congress of Parents, Teachers and Students and a Congressional Record tribute on the 25th anniversary of the Titled Indian Education Programs.

Additionally, Deanna is one of the first Native American women elected to the National Board of the YWCA. She is a member of the California Teachers Association, National Education Association, and the Association of California School Administrators. She is also a founding member of the Oakland Museum's Cultural and Ethnic Affairs Guild.

Deanna's leadership and vision have allowed Native American programs to thrive throughout Alameda County. Her commitment has raised the community's awareness of the history and richness of Native American culture. I join many others in thanking Deanna Espina for her exemplary contributions to our community.

IN HONOR OF FIRST STATE  
BALLET THEATRE

**HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE**

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 12, 2010*

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize First State Ballet Theatre as they celebrate their 10th anniversary. Over the past decade, First State Ballet Theatre has become a staple in and around the Delaware arts community, one that currently holds the distinction of being the only professional ballet company in our state.

Since its establishment, First State Ballet Theatre has brought the beauty and excitement of live ballet to Delaware, and in doing so has served more than 7,000 school children through in-theatre lecture demonstrations and classes. The company has made the city of Wilmington a tourist destination for ballet enthusiasts, commissioning major works from internationally recognized choreographers and drawing patrons from throughout the mid-Atlantic region—from Richmond, Virginia, to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to New York City and Rhode Island. The collaborations that First State Ballet Theatre has initiated with Delaware artists and arts institutions like Charles Parks, SPARX, the Delaware Symphony Orchestra, OperaDelaware, and the Grand Opera House, have served to enrich our state's arts programs and we in Delaware are extremely grateful for their contributions.

In addition to regional and local achievements, First State Ballet Theatre has also made a significant impact on the international stage. Its students have been ranked among the top 12 young dancers in the world by distinguished judges at the Youth America Grand Prix—the world's largest ballet competition for pre-professional dancers. The company founded and presented four Arabesque international festivals of classical and contemporary ballet, attracting guest artists from around the globe to the main stage of the Wilmington Grand Opera House. In 2007, First State Ballet Theatre students performed by special invitation at the Spoleto Festival dei Due Mondi in Spoleto, Italy—a prestigious international ballet festival—and were the only Delaware performing arts company to receive such an honor.

In recognition of their 10th anniversary, I would like to congratulate and honor First State Ballet Theatre for the extraordinary amount of effort and dedication the company has invested not only in its students, but in the greater arts community of Delaware. I commend them for their continued efforts and numerous contributions, and I wish them all the best on this momentous occasion.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL THAT  
PROHIBITS THE CLOSURE OF  
THE COMMISSARY AND EX-  
CHANGE PROGRAMS AT NAVAL  
AIR STATION BRUNSWICK

**HON. CHELLIE PINGREE**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 12, 2010*

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to be introducing a bill that